

20 years with the purpose of providing opportunities to children with disabilities and their families. His hard work has gained him the admiration of many, and he is an excellent choice to represent the spirit of friendship.

First awarded in 1964, the title of "Mr. Amigo" is an annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen who has made a lasting contribution during the previous year to international solidarity and goodwill. "Mr. Amigo" acts as an ambassador between the United States and Mexico and presides over the annual Charro Days Fiesta.

Charro Days dates back to 1937, when the citizens of Brownsville organized the event in the midst of the Great Depression to celebrate the cultural heritage shared between Brownsville and its sister city across the Rio Grande, Matamoros. The first Charro Days celebration featured a parade with horse-drawn floats and participants dressed in traditional Mexican costumes reminiscent of charros, or Mexican cowboys.

From these humble beginnings, Charro Days has evolved into a multi-day event, which includes dances, fiestas, a children's parade, and the Grand International Parade. Thousands of participants from both sides of the border celebrate these traditions each year.

The 80th annual Charro Days celebration commenced on February 19th, with a grito, or celebratory yell, and on February 25th, the Mayor of Brownsville and the Mayor of Matamoros met at the Gateway International Bridge to extend their hands across the border, symbolizing the friendship between the two cities.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to honor the Charro Days Fiesta and for joining me in recognizing the importance of this annual celebration, which continues to strengthen the relationship between Brownsville and Matamoros, and the bonds between the United States and Mexico.

HONORING GREENSBURG COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL PIRATES BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Greensburg Community High School on its 2017 IHSAA Class 3A Sectional 29 championship in boys' basketball.

The Pirates faced off against the Lawrenceburg Tigers on their home court and defeated them 55–41.

I am proud of these young men for not only their remarkable win, but also for the Hoosier sportsmanship that they displayed throughout this exciting season. I want to commend Coach Stacy Meyer as well as all of the assistant coaches who led these young men to victory.

Congrats, Pirates.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL
BALISTRIERE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael "Mike" Balistriere who is retiring from Milwaukee Area Labor Council on March 17, 2017. Mike is a labor leader, veteran, father and advocate.

Mike Balistriere has been a proud union member since 1969 when he began his career at Evinrude Motors. Mike served in Vietnam as a United States Marine from 1969–1971 and returned to Evinrude after his service. He became an active member with the United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1302, while at Evinrude and was elected Chief Steward in 1974 and served on the bargaining committee for 15 years. As a member of USW Local 1302, Mike served on a variety of committees at the behest of his union.

Mr. Balistriere was called upon by his International Union to help with the Firestone/Bridgestone strike as part of a statewide committee. The United Steelworkers won that hard fought fight benefiting the workers which led to the merger of the United Steelworkers and Rubber Workers. In 1997, Mike left Evinrude to assume the position of Community Service Liaison at the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and later for the Milwaukee Area Labor Council.

In his position as Community Service Liaison, Mr. Balistriere has served as a member of the AFL-CIO Union Veterans Council, Co-Founder of the Veterans Community Relations Team, and Treasurer for the War Memorial Board. Further, he worked closely with the HIRE Center, Wisconsin Election Protection, and chaired the St. Bens Annual Cook Out for the Milwaukee Area Labor Council, United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County for the past 10 years.

Some of Mike's notable achievements include preventing the hostile takeover of the Milwaukee County War Memorial, moving the statue of General MacArthur to the lakefront, meeting with the Japanese, Korean, Australian, and the Philippines consulates in Chicago about the Gen. MacArthur Memorial Lakefront Event. One of Mike Balistriere's proudest moments was to lead the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance before President Barack Obama speeches at both the Bradley Center and Laborfest.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know Mike Balistriere and work with him for many years on labor issues, veterans' issues and voting rights. I join with friends and his wife, Cindy and children Rebecca, Michael Jr., Sarah, and Nathan to congratulate him as he transitions into a different phase of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mike Balistriere and to call him friend. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of ability and dedicated service working on their behalf for so many years. I thank him for all that he has done. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Mike Balistriere.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF OLMITO WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION, INC.

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Olmito Water Supply Corporation, Inc. on their 50th year of service.

Olmito Water Supply Corporation (WSC) was certified as a non-profit in 1967 and is located in Cameron County. For 50 years, the leadership of its Board of Directors and dedication of its employees has brought vital services to the region. Since its foundation, the corporation has provided safe tap water and sanitary sewer service to the rural community of Olmito, Texas.

Today, Olmito WSC has established 2,175 water connections that serve over 8,000 'colonia' residents. Colonias are unincorporated settlements along the U.S.-Mexico border that lack living necessities such as potable water, sewer systems, electricity, paved roads, and sanitary housing. The corporation's ability to provide clean water and sanitary sewer service has raised the quality of life for residents, and has laid the infrastructure for the creation of new subdivisions and commercial establishments in the area.

The Olmito Water Supply Corporation has made a lasting, positive impact on our community, and it will continue to play a critical role in the improvement of South Texas. I rise today to congratulate the Olmito Water Supply Corporation as it celebrates 50 years of success.

HONORING DR. LESTER TENNEY

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Lester Irwin Tenney of Carlsbad, California, who recently passed away on February 24, 2017 at the age of 96. I am proud to recognize his memory as his Congressman and admire his life's work to strengthen ties with our allies in Japan.

Dr. Tenney served our nation during World War II on the 192nd Tank Battalion in the Philippines. Immediately following the attack on Pearl Harbor, his battalion continuously fought against the Japanese assault until his commanders surrendered on April 9, 1942. He became a Prisoner of War and survived the infamous Bataan Death March, while thousands of his American and Filipino counterparts perished. He was then forced to work in a Japanese coal mine until the conclusion of the war. Upon returning to the U.S., Dr. Tenney studied business at San Diego State University, taught finance at Arizona State University, and started his own financial planning firm.

After publishing his memoirs documenting the atrocities he experienced as a POW, Dr. Tenney made it his mission to forgive his captors and establish friendships with Japanese citizens. As national commander of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, he met the Japanese Ambassador to the United States,

Ichiro Fujisaki, and arranged for a public apology on behalf of Japan to the surviving POWs. He also worked with the Japanese government to establish the U.S.-Japan POW Friendship Program, which allows former POWs and their families to visit Japan annually. Finally, Dr. Tenney received a personal apology from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2015 and just last month received a letter of apology from Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, one of the companies that profited from POW labor at the time. I have been fortunate enough to know Dr. Tenney. His courage and tenacity are an inspiration to all, and his moving story demonstrates how much impact one person can have on world affairs.

Dr. Tenney's legacy is admirable and his impressive achievements in U.S.-Japan relations will be remembered for years to come. He is survived by his wife, Betty, and his son, two stepsons, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. I extend my condolences to his family in this difficult time.

HONORING NORTHEASTERN HIGH SCHOOL KNIGHTS BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Northeastern High School on its 2017 IHSA Class 2A Sectional 41 championship in boys' basketball.

The Knights faced off against the Union County Patriots, defeating them 54–41.

I am proud of these young men for not only their remarkable win, but also for the Hoosier sportsmanship that they displayed throughout this exciting season. I want to commend Coach Brent Ross as well as all of the assistant coaches who led these young men to victory.

Congrats, Knights.

HONORING THE LIFELONG CONTRIBUTIONS OF PAUL KALINIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Fresnan Paul Kalinian, a philanthropic and award winning filmmaker known especially for his documentary on Armenian-American William Saroyan.

Paul Kalinian was born in Beirut, Lebanon on February 14, 1932, but spent the majority of his childhood in Damascus, Syria. At age 14, he discovered his passion for photography and began learning the skill at the Photo Gulbenk Studio in Damascus. Four years later, he returned to Beirut, opening his first photography studio, Photo Paul in 1961. In 1964, he moved to Canada, then to the United States to further pursue a future in photography and filmmaking. Attending the New York Institute of Photography, Paul received degrees in Photography and Motion Picture Production in 1967. That same year, he returned to Beirut to marry his longtime sweetheart,

Araxie Deuvletian. They immigrated to the United States and were blessed with twins: a son Harold and a daughter Susie, making Fresno, California their permanent home, the birthplace of his childhood hero William Saroyan.

In 1972, Paul opened his second studio, Paul's Photography Studio, in Fresno, California. Throughout the years, he photographed countless people from all walks of life, from politicians and generals, to models, musicians and clergy leaders. His works have been published in over a dozen books, and numerous newspapers and magazines, and have been displayed in over a dozen different locations such as government buildings, museums, schools and libraries.

Aside from having a passion for photography, Paul had a dream of one day being able to photograph internationally renowned Armenian-American Pulitzer Prize and Oscar winner, William Saroyan. After 12 years of chasing this dream, Paul was finally able to capture portraits of the famous writer and playwright on March 26, 1976. One such characteristic portrait was selected by the United States and Soviet Union Postal Services, among 400 other photographs, to be used for their Commemorative Postal Stamps. This was the first time in history that an individual was selected as a humanitarian symbol of peace and friendship between two superpower nations. First-day-issue ceremonies took place simultaneously on May 22, 1991 in Fresno, California and in Yerevan, Armenia.

After William Saroyan's death in 1981, Paul created a 22 minute presentation of Saroyan's portraits, along with his narration "How I shot Saroyan," which was shown over 100 times in various cities, and televised on public stations. In light of the positive response, Paul and his daughter, Dr. Susie Kalinian, decided to collaborate and create a documentary film about Saroyan's life and works, narrated by another famous Fresnan whom Kalinian admires and respects, television and motion picture star, actor Mike Connors. Entitled William Saroyan; The Man The Writer, the film was written and directed by Paul and produced by his daughter. It is a symbol of Paul's admiration for Saroyan as one of the greatest writers of our time. The film was created to preserve and present Saroyan's works, recognize his dual cultural heritage, and spread his message of peace and hope around the world. The film, a labor of love, won numerous awards of recognition, including six international film festival awards and a Gold Award for Best Documentary Film among 12 competing nations. The film premiered on April 9, 1991 in Fresno at the William Saroyan Theatre. Today, over one million people have seen the film in more than 60 cities in 19 countries around the world. This film not only pays tribute to Saroyan, but pays tribute to Armenians and Fresno, California.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating a man who has dedicated his life to preserving American and Armenian culture through the art of photography and film. It is both fitting and appropriate that we recognize Paul Kalinian for his educational and philanthropic contributions to his community, his country, and our world. I join Paul's family in wishing him health and happiness for years to come.

HONORING SOUTH RIPLEY RAIDERS BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor South Ripley High School on its 2017 IHSA Class 2A Sectional 45 championship in boys' basketball.

The Raiders faced off against the Milan Indians, defeating them 47–42.

I am proud of these young men for not only their remarkable win, but also for the Hoosier sportsmanship that they displayed throughout this exciting season. I want to commend Coach Travis Wrightsman as well as all of the assistant coaches who led these young men to victory.

Congrats, Raiders.

COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF PUBLIC.RESOURCE.ORG

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tenth anniversary of Public.Resource.Org, a nonprofit organization promoting openness and transparency in all three branches of the federal government.

In the past decade, organizations like Public Resource have been instrumental in utilizing modern technology and the Internet as vehicles to make the proceedings and reports of the House of Representatives readily available to the general public. While I served as Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, our staff worked with Public Resource to upload a video archive of all its proceedings to the Internet and used official transcripts to add closed captioning to our hearings. In addition to the Oversight Committee, their team uploaded over 3,000 hearings from all committees to the Internet Archive, particularly documenting activity in the House from 2005 through 2011.

In the Judicial Branch, Public Resource published all the historical opinions of the U.S. Court of Appeals and millions of pages of briefs from significant judicial opinions. They also worked with numerous executive agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Archivist of the United States, the National Technical Information Service, and the Internal Revenue Service to post thousands of government videos and upload over 9 million tax documents of nonprofit organizations for the public record.

As the organization celebrates this milestone, I would like to congratulate Public Resource for its service to Congress and the ongoing effort to provide American citizens with the tools they need to scrutinize the activities of the federal government.